FOREST SERVICE

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THE FOREST SERVICE

History Line

To: History Coordinators
Forest Service Personnel

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We can report several completed projects and progress on others since our last newsletter.

Federal Forestry Centennial, 1976-1977.--This was marked by a symbolic tree-planting ceremony in the patio of the Administration Building on the Mall, August 30, 1976. Chief John McGuire, Secretary Earl Butz, and staff people from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the White House participated. The loblolly pine seedling was one of a number grown by the Forest Service from superior seeds carried on the Apollo 14 trip to the moon in 1971. Astronaut Rusty Schweickart joined in the ceremony.

A new portrait of Dr. Franklin B. Hough, first forestry agent of the Department of Agriculture and first Chief of the Division of Forestry, was presented to Chief McGuire. Painted by Rudy Wendelin, retired Forest Service artist, the portrait hung in the Chief's office for a time. It is now in the History Section office, and will later be placed on permanent display at the Forest Service's Cradle of Forestry, Asheville, North Carolina.

Frank Harmon's biographical sketch of Dr. Hough, illustrated with several photographs, appeared in the January 1977 issue of American Forests magazine. Reprints will be available for distribution to the public at various forestry centers, including the Cradle of Forestry, Pinchot Estate (Milford, Pennsylvania), Western Forestry Center (Portland, Oregon), and the Gould-Hough Museum (Lyons Falls, New York).

Forest History Booklets.--The booklet, Highlights in the History of Forest Conservation, in 8x10-inch format with photographs, has appeared in a revised edition. It is available from Forest Service Information Offices.

A Photo History of Federal Forestry will soon be issued. The compiler, Bill Bergoffen, retired information specialist for the Forest Service, has worked on the project for several years. It contains over 200 old photos and an outline history of the Forest Service.

Interviews with our Foresters.--A 300-page volume of interviews recorded several years ago with the late Leon F. Kneipp, former Assistant Chief of the Forest Service for Land Acquisition and Planning, has been produced by the Regional Oral History Office, Bancroft Library, University of California at

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Berkeley, California. They did the final editing, transcription, and binding work. This is the last volume in the series of Forest Service taped interviews done in the 1960s with the cooperation of ROHO, Resources for the Future, and the Forest Service.

The Forest History Society, under cooperative agreement with the Forest Service, has completed and is now editing its interviews with Dr. V.L. Harper of Gainesville, Florida, retired head of Research.

Elwood Maunder, executive director of the Society, will soon interview retired Dr. George Jemison of Portland, Oregon. Jemison succeeded Harper after serving as his associate for several years.

A long-planned interview with Clarence Forsling of Albuquerque, New Mexico, has been postponed because of Forsling's sudden illness. He was an early range researcher for the Forest Service, who directed several of its Experiment Stations before becoming Assistant Chief for Research in 1937 and in 1944, Director of Grazing for the Interior Department.

Jemison reviewed Maunder's published interview with Charles A. Connaughton in the August 1976 issue of Journal of American Forestry.

A volume containing an interview with Roby M. Evans of Medford, Oregon, retired Regional Forester, Eastern Region, has just been issued by the Forest History Society, under cooperative agreement with the Forest Service. Evans' long, early experiences with range and timber controversies in the Northwest are also covered.

Oscar M. Evans, retired Chief of timber surveys, Region 5, has finished his autobiographical sketch. The sketch has been sent to the Forest History Society by Carl C. Wilson of the Pacific Southwest Station.

The Forest Service History Section suggests that Forest Service retirees with collections and reminiscences send them to the History Section, Forest History Society, Denver Conservation Library, or to a university or State historical library. We encourage retirees to write their memoirs and suggest giving special attention to significant changes in actions and policies, and the reasons behind them.

Bibliographies and more Interviews.--The Conservation Library at the Denver Public Library has, under contract, furnished the Forest Service History Section with a microfilm index to its complete collection, which includes many Forest Service materials. It has also furnished us with indices to 60 tape-recorded interviews with retired Forest Service people, principally of Regions 2 and 3. Many were made during the 1960s.

The Conservation Library is seeking manuscripts and collections on conservation in the Colorado area. Anyone knowing of such material is asked to write them at the Denver Public Library, 1357 Broadway, Denver, Colorado 80203.

The first revision of the Forest Service Historical Bibliography, 1876-1972 by Gerald E. Ogden, was published by the Agricultural History Society at Davis, California, in cooperation with the Forest Service's History Section and the Department of Agriculture's History Branch. We distributed 300 copies throughout the Forest Service. Ogden, a PhD candidate in history, University of New Mexico, is with the USDA History Branch. He is now revising his draft of a history of the origins and impacts

of the Weeks and Clarke-McNary Acts.

Forest Fire Projects.--An illustrated historical summary of The Gisborne Era in Forest Fire Research has been completed by Charles E. (Mike) Hardy. A Forest Service retiree of Missoula, Montana, long associated with that work, he is working under an agreement between the Forest Service and the University of Montana. It's 102 pages, multilithed, and gives a good overview of the man and his work as a pioneer leader in fire research in the northern Rockies for the Forest Service from 1922 to 1950.

The History Section is now considering an analytic history of the philosophy, policies, and practice of wildfire suppression and management in the past century.

A veteran forest firefighter with bulldozers and other heavy equipment in southern California for the past 20 years, Bill Friend of Ventura, California, has been persuaded by Forest Service friends to compile a history of fire control by plane and helicopter. He is seeking relevant material, particularly the names of early airplanes used for patrol work.

Blister Rust Control.--A history of this project with eastern and western white pine is in progress under an arrangement with Dr. Warren Benedict, Forest Service retiree in charge of the work for many years.

Shelterbelt History.--Dr. Wilmon Droze, provost of Texas Woman's University and author of the forthcoming book on this highly successful Forest Service project of the 1930s and early 1940s, reports technical publication delays. However, final proofs of the last chapter are being corrected and publication is not far off. A paper he read covering the first two chapters of the manuscript at a symposium on plains agriculture, last summer at Bozeman, Montana, has been published in the current issue of the Journal of Agricultural History. Dr. Droze has also been appointed to the Editorial Board of the Journal of Forest History.

History Section Files.--Archivist David Kepley has joined the History Section staff on a part-time basis to organize our large collection of papers and publications. This will allow us to provide better service on inquiries and planning. Kepley comes to us from the National Archives and University of Maryland.

We have already sent large quantities of duplicate old publications to several depositories. As far as supplies allowed, we sent old personnel directories and Chief's Reports to Stations and Regional Offices who requested them. We have varying limited numbers of other early manuals concerning aspects of National Forest management, and may have a few to distribute to some Regional Offices, if any are wanted for their historical files.

Progress in History Projects in the Field:

I. Experiment Stations

a. History of Forest Service Research in the Central and Southern Rocky Mountain Regions, 1908-1976. (General Technical Report RM-27, August 1976, 100 pp., profusely illustrated, available from Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, 240 W. Prospect St., Fort Collins, Colorado 80521.) This compilation was done by Raymond Price, retired Director of the old Southwestern Station (1942-53), and the consolidated Rocky Mountain Station at Fort Collins (1953-71). He gives a general summary of major projects, directions, and accomplishments. A

list of experimental areas and scientists, technicians, and other leaders, is included in the Appendix.

b. *Frontiers of Forestry Research--Priest River Experimental Forest, 1911-1976*. (Unnumbered publication of Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, 507 25th St., Ogden, Utah 84401, 148 pp., 1976.) The author is Charles Wellner, retired assistant director. The book is well illustrated and includes a summary of the Forest's (formerly an Experiment Station) role and accomplishments, a list of field personnel over the years, and other pertinent data.

The Northern Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station at Missoula took over Priest River's Regional responsibilities in the early 1920s. Northern was merged with Intermountain Station in 1953. A 65th anniversary program on August 11, 1976, featured a presentation of a review of the start of research there prepared by pioneer researcher, Dr. J.A. Larsen. Dr. Larsen, who headed the old Station from 1918 to 1924, died January 4, 1977, in Omaha at the age of 99. He received his MF at Yale in 1910, and taught forestry at Iowa State University from 1924 to 1947. The Station's four-day program included field tours in cooperation with the local Society of American Foresters chapter.

c. *A Forestry Sciences Laboratory and How It Grew*. (Unnumbered publication, North Central Forest Experiment Station, Folwell Ave., St. Paul, Minnesota 55101, 77 pp., 1976.) This is the story of the Carbondale, Illinois, laboratory written by Cleo Caraway, who had a 30-year career with the lab and is the only remaining member of the original staff.

The booklet contains, besides the narrative and many illustrations, the names of the staff for the years 1958, 1960, 1968, and 1976, and a list of selected references.

d. *Outbreaks of the Western Spruce Budworm in the American Northern Rocky Mountain Area from 1922 through 1971* by Philip C. Johnson and Robert E. Denton, Forest Service research entomologists. (Intermountain Station, General Technical Report INT-20, 1975, 144 pp., including tables and references.) This is a good exploration of the value of historical studies to natural sciences research problems.

e. *The Allegheny Hardwoods of Pennsylvania* by David A. Marquis. (General Technical Report NE-15, Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, 1975, 32 pp.) Marquis tells how regeneration problems resulted from early lumbering practices and more recent excessive deer browsing.

II. National Forest Regions

Region 3.--Events in the Life of a Timber Beast by Edward C. Groesbeck. (Published by Steamboat Pilot Press, Steamboat Springs, Colorado, 1976, 99 pp.) Reminiscences of Forest Service man's career of 37½ years, mostly in Arizona. He started in Minnesota and finished as a timber specialist in the Albuquerque Regional Office.

Region 5.--Leaves from a Forest Ranger's Diary by Louis A. Barrett. (Typed and multilithed for limited distribution by Plumas National Forest, November 1976, 148 pp.) He was first supervisor of the Plumas, Lassen, and Diamond Mountain Forest Reserves in northern California, appointed to all three in 1905. From 1910 to 1936 he was the Forest Service's Assistant Forester for Lands, Region 5, California. Before that assignment he organized Forest Reserves and trained Rangers all over California and the Southwest. He began his career on land surveys for

the General Land Office in 1901, and became a forest inspector for the Reserves in 1903, two years before they were all transferred to the Forest Service.

Barrett has many interesting tales to tell of the early days--thousands of miles of horseback travel every year in all weather, the lack of decent overnight accommodations, and numerous tangles with timber, grazing, and mining violators. He relates a memorable trip by pack train around the boundaries of the Yellowstone Forest Reserve in 1903, when he rode 2,100 miles horseback in 102 days, mostly rough cross-country travel on a saddle horse rented from Col. "Buffalo Bill" Cody in Cody, Wyoming. Today the Reserve is mostly in the Shoshone and Teton National Forests.

While on the three Reserves in northern California, Barrett supported and assisted the creation of Lassen Peak and Cinder Cone National Monuments which preceded the National Park there. He recognized early the importance of scenic and recreational values in the National Forests.

Barrett's contributions to the Park movement are described in These Happy Grounds, A History of the Lassen Region by Douglas H. Strong, California State University, San Diego. (Published by Loomis Museum Association in 1973.)

Barrett also wrote Plumas National Forest: The First Four Years, which includes a chapter on the Lassen. (Plumas Historical Society Publication, No. 5, June 4, 1961.)

Region 6.--Roscoe Files, Visitor Information Service Chief, has sketched a tentative outline for a written history of the Region. Sections on timber management and other multiple-use aspects are planned. It is hoped that a team can be assigned to oversee the job and volunteer help recruited to assist. The project got its start a year ago when retiree Larry Mays, formerly of Region 6, came from Georgia to spend several weeks interviewing a number of retirees about their experiences and participation in managing the Region's forest resources.

Region 8.--A history of the Osceola National Forest in Florida is being written by Richard Dusenbury of Jacksonville, Florida. He received a PhD in history, University of Wisconsin, in 1969. The writing contract was awarded by the Supervisor, National Forests in Florida. A history of the Ocala may follow.

Region 9.--Stanley Johnson, who has spent all his 42 Forest Service years on the Chippewa National Forest, is continuing to gather material for its history while still on the job.

Taped interviews are being made of men as they retiree, and any historic photos they have on hand are being copied. Photos have been obtained of all former Supervisors, and a list of all former Rangers. A collection of all important writings about the area has been assembled, and a register compiled of all historic sites. The register includes the 17 remaining buildings of an old CCC camp which is to be dedicated as a historic site in August. Former CCC enrollees have been interviewed and old CCC photos collected. A brief introductory history of the Chippewa has been inserted in current land planning studies for the Forest.

Johnson is also gathering stories from early resort owners on National Forest land, and data on the early lumber barons on the $2 million Trout Lake Tract recently acquired by the Forest.

He is making a slide tape program with the last birch bark canoe-maker in the area, and one about the old lumberjacks for showing at local schools.

The Forest headquarters, a 3-story log building with 26 rooms built by the CCC in 1935, has been placed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Johnson points out that little historic material was available when he began working on the project a few years ago, but he has had excellent cooperation from the three area county and State historical societies, the Library of Congress, National Archives, and the Forest History Society.

Southern Forestry.--A bound transcript of tape-recorded interviews made with four early prominent forestry leaders in the South by Elwood Maunder, executive director, Forest History Society, has just been issued by the Society. It is entitled, "Voices from the South: Conversations with Conservationists." The men are Inman F. Eldredge and Elwood L. Demmon, both of whom had long careers in the Forest Service; Walter Damtoft, industrial forester; and Clinton H. Coulter, formerly of the Florida Forest Service. Eldredge directed the first forest survey in the South. Demmon served as director of three Forest Service Regional Forest Experiment Stations. This new volume is a compilation of interviews conducted in 1958 and 1959, and issued then in simple typed folder form.

Views on the development of industrial forestry in the South and of lumber trade associations from a veteran observer appear in the article, "Perspectives on Southern Forestry," in the January 1977 issue of Journal of Forest History. It is excerpted from a tape-recorded interview made with Stanley F. Horn, editor of Southern Lumberman magazine for many years. The interviewer was Charles W. Crawford. Horn credits the first big-scale application of sustained yield in the South to the W.T. Smith Lumber Company at Brewton, Alabama, following the advice of a professional forester, Les Pomeroy.

The origins and history of the Forest Farmer Association, an organization of southern timberland owners, are related by J. Walter Myers, Jr., in the April 1976 issue of Forest Farmer magazine.

A long-deserved tribute to the pioneer forestry educator of the Deep South, John Clayton Gifford, contemporary of Gifford Pinchot and Henry Graves, and like them educated in forestry in Europe in the 1890s, appeared in the October 1976 issue of American Forests magazine, written by Elizabeth Rothra, under the title, "Florida's Great Interpreter." Gifford taught forestry in 1900 at the Nation's first four-year professional forestry school at Cornell University, and then at the University of Florida for many years. He was perhaps the first forester in his native New Jersey where he edited a forestry magazine he founded in 1895 (The Forester), which became the official publication of the American Forestry Association in January 1898. He was forester for the New Jersey Geological Survey, 1895-96, and wrote the book, Practical Forestry, in 1901. In the same issue of American Forests is the historical article, "Southern Forestry is Growing Up," by Z.W. White.

USDA History Branch.--The Agricultural History Branch of the Department of Agriculture has begun to issue a brief newsletter containing current items of general interest entitled Agricultural History News Notes. The Branch is part of the Economic Research Service of USDA, and is headed by Dr. Wayne Rasmussen. It is considering a program of engaging college history students on short-term projects.

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